

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 16, and 22 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 12, 16, and 22. Claims 12-15 and 22-24 have been cancelled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended by this reply to clarify the invention as recited. Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify that (i) the clone certificate authority (CA) maintains a copy of the notice (that includes the revocation information) sent to the master CA in memory; and (ii) the notice is removed from memory when the clone CA receives notification from the master server that the single CRL maintained by the master CA has been updated to reflect the revocation information in the notice. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, for example, on page 25 of the instant specification. No new subject matter is added by way of these claim amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as having insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 22 has been cancelled by this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 8, 12-18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,462 (“Zubeldia”). Claims 12-15 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot with respect to the cancelled claims. To the extent that this rejection applies to the pending amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order for Zubeldia to anticipate the claims, Zubeldia must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims either explicitly or impliedly. Applicants respectfully assert that Zubeldia does not satisfy this requirement. Specifically, the independent claims, as amended, require that the clone CA maintains an *in-memory* copy of the notice that is sent to the master CA, where the notice includes the revocation information. The copy of the notice is maintained in the memory of the clone CA until the clone CA receives notification that the master CA has successfully updated the single CRL with the revocation information.

In contrast, the portions of Zubeldia cited by the Examiner (*i.e.*, Zubeldia, col. 7 and Figure 6) only teach sending revocation information to a central database without any teaching or suggestion of a mechanism to inform the CA (*i.e.*, Zubeldia, Figure 6, certificate authority 602A, 602B, 602C) that the database has successfully updated the CRL using the revocation information.

In view of the above, amended independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Zubeldia. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5, 10, 11, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Zubeldia in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0080719 (“Parkvall”). To the extent this rejection still applies to the pending amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 10, 11 depend from amended independent claim 1 and claim 19 depends from amended independent claim 16.

As discussed above, Zubeldia fails to teach or suggest all the limitations recited in amended independent claims 1 and 16. Further, Parkvall does not teach that which Zubeldia lacks. This is evidenced by the fact that the Examiner only relies upon Parkvall to teach “sending information over a secure communications channel” (Office Action mailed July 14, 2005, p. 4).

In view of the above, neither Zubeldia nor Parkvall teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 16. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 19, 20, and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Zubeldia in view of Oracle Internet Directory Administrator’s Guide (“Oracle”). Claims 22-24 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot with respect to the cancelled claims. To the extent the rejection still applies to the pending amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 depend from amended independent claim 1 and claims 19 and 20 depend from amended independent claim 16.

As discussed above, Zubeldia fails to teach or suggest all the limitations recited in amended independent claims 1 and 16. Further, Oracle does not teach that which Zubeldia lacks. This is

evidenced by the fact that the Examiner only relies upon Oracle to teach "directory access control" (Office Action mailed July 14, 2005, p. 6).

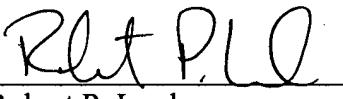
In view of the above, neither Zubeldia nor Oracle teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 16. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number: 03226/533001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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